

Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 06-74 / Support for AT&T/BellSouth Merger

Dear Commissioner:

As President of Miles College, I am committed to growing the educational opportunities, future career prospects and economic prosperity of our students. This is why I write to ask for your swift approval of the AT&T / BellSouth merger.

The merger will deliver new and innovative broadband technologies that will improve the education of our young people, especially African-Americans and those in lower-income and rural areas of Alabama.

From distance learning to cutting-edge, in-classroom tools, our students and educators are already learning how technology can open new doors. Yet, we have barely begun to scratch the surface of the innovations in education that communications technology can make available to us. AT&T and BellSouth have proposed a very meaningful set of post-merger conditions that include a promise to bring *affordable* and *universal* broadband coverage to Alabama's parents and students. Specifically, AT&T and BellSouth have offered:

- A \$10 monthly residential broadband Internet service offering;
- A pledge to make available broadband Internet access to *all* residential living units in the AT&T/BellSouth service territory, including rural America and lower income housing units.

I believe that Miles College and our minority students, many of whom come from lower income families and rural areas, will reap greater benefit than most from these broadband commitments, which include:

- Speeding the deployment of exciting new broadband-based technologies and other promising innovations to our nation's schools, libraries and to students' homes.
- Providing new economic growth and jobs for our young people.
- Enhancing *distance learning* capabilities, such as offering students greater access to advanced placement and other courses and fields of study, providing new educational tools for students and others with disabilities, and providing

new cost-effective learning tools that will enhance America's global competitiveness.

Given the positive impact these commitments will bring to our educational system and young people, I urge you to approve the AT&T/BellSouth merger at the earliest possible date.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

George T. French, Jr.
President